

What is claimed is:

1. A needle for use in a tissue suturing apparatus, the needle comprising  
a shaft having a diameter;  
a tip including a point tapering to a distal end of the needle; and,  
a groove between the shaft and the tip.
- 5 2. The needle of claim 1 wherein a diameter at a proximal end of the point defines a maximum diameter of the tip, a region of the tip tapering proximally towards the shaft, wherein the region has a proximal end diameter less than the diameter of the shaft.
- 10 3. The needle of claim 2 further comprising a section between the shaft and the tip, the section tapering distally from the diameter of the shaft to the proximal end diameter of the region of the tip, the section and the region defining the groove.
4. The needle of claim 1 wherein the shaft has a substantially circular cross-section.
5. The needle of claim 1 wherein the shaft of the needle is a length adapted for receipt in a shaft of a tissue suturing apparatus.
- 15 6. The needle of claim 1 wherein the shaft of the needle has a distal end adjacent the tip and a proximal end having a spherical member for receipt within a handle member of a tissue suturing apparatus.
7. The needle of claim 1 wherein the point is conically shaped.